



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

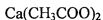
In re application of : Attorney Docket No. 2006_0426A
Erik BIJPOST et al. : **Confirmation No. 3649**
Serial No. 10/574,815 : Group Art Unit 1793
Filed June 30, 2006 : Examiner Richard M. Rump
METHOD OF IMPROVING THE : **Mail Stop: RCE**
CRUSHING STRENGTH, IMPACT
RESISTANCE AND COMPRESSIBILITY OF
UREA, AND UREA COMPOSITION

REPLY TO ADVISORY ACTION
SUBMITTED CONCURRENTLY WITH RCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

With regard to Applicants' argument that the Velzel et al. reference discloses a **salt**, i.e. calcium acetate, whereas the present invention employs an organic **acid**, the Examiner argues that calcium acetate meets the requirements of the present claims in that it has "a carboxylic acid group". This is incorrect. Calcium acetate has the formula:



and does not have a carboxylic acid group (-COOH). The characteristic feature of a carboxylic acid group is that it has a hydroxyl group (-OH) attached to the carbonyl group (C=O). There is no such hydroxyl group in calcium acetate.

The $\text{Ca}(\text{CH}_3\text{COO})_2$ (calcium acetate) of Velzel et al. is insoluble in organic solvents, and because of its specific ionic character has a different charge distribution and hydrogen bond formation, resulting in different behavior in urea than CH_3COOH (acetic acid).

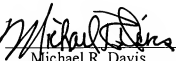
Thus, the Examiner has made a fundamental error, when comparing the presently claimed invention with the Velzel et al. reference, in stating that the calcium acetate of the reference has a carboxylic acid group. Calcium acetate does not have a carboxylic acid group, since it does not have the characteristic hydroxyl group attached to the carbonyl group.

For these reasons, and for those set forth in the response filed September 2, 2009, Applicants continue to take the position that the presently claimed invention is clearly patentable over the applied reference.

Accordingly, the application is now considered to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik BIJPOST et al.

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